THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The production of petroleum products from refineries during the period April to September, 2003 was 54.723 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against 51,288 MMT during the corresponding period in 2002 registering a growth of 6.7%.

(b) and (c) As per revised estimates for the year 2003-04, the production of petroleum products from refineries is expected to be 111.648 million metric tonnes as against 104.209 MMT during 2002-2003, registering a growth rate of 7.1%.

Ban on private kerosene import

1480. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private kerosene importers are diverting their supplies in bulk for adulteration with diesel;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to ban private import of kerosene; and

(c) whether the private importers of kerosene were bound to provide supplies for Public Distribution System and if so, upto what percentage of their import entitlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In view of the reported illegal activities of the Parallel Marketeers, Government, *vide* its Notification dated 25.11.2003 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has amended the Exim Policy on import of kerosene. As per this, import of kerosene shall be allowed through State Trading Enterprises.

(c) No, Sir.

ONGC's Overseas Operation

1481. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is operating in other countries also;